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SENATE BILL 831

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Lee Rawson

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT; PROVIDING FOR A
CONSOLIDATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL
CONSOLIDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE AND MUNICIPAL COURTS IN DONA
ANA COUNTY; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. CONSOLIDATION STUDY COMMITTEE-- COMPOSITION--
DUTIES. --

A. With the approval and direction of the supreme
court, the administrative office of the courts shall create a
"consolidation study committee" to study the potential
consolidation of the magistrate and municipal courts in Dona
Ana county. The committee shall consist of fifteen members as
follows:

- (1) a district judge from the third judicial

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1 district, appointed by the chief judge of the district;

2 (2) a Dona Ana county magistrate judge,
3 appointed by the director of the administrative office of the
4 courts;

5 (3) a municipal judge from the city of Las
6 Cruces, appointed by the director of the administrative office
7 of the courts;

8 (4) three attorneys who commonly practice in
9 the Dona Ana county magistrate court or the city of Las Cruces
10 municipal court, appointed by the third judicial district bar
11 association;

12 (5) one public member appointed by the mayor
13 of the city of Las Cruces;

14 (6) one public member appointed by the board
15 of county commissioners for Dona Ana county;

16 (7) one administrative employee from the Dona
17 Ana county magistrate court, appointed by the magistrates;

18 (8) one administrative employee from the city
19 of Las Cruces municipal court, appointed by the municipal
20 judges;

21 (9) one administrative employee from the third
22 judicial district court, appointed by the district court
23 judges;

24 (10) a designee of the director of the
25 administrative office of the courts;

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1 (11) the district attorney for the third
2 judicial district;

3 (12) the district public defender for the
4 third judicial district; and

5 (13) a member of the city council of the city
6 of Las Cruces, appointed by the city council.

7 B. The committee shall elect a chair and such other
8 officers as it deems necessary. The committee shall meet at
9 the call of the chair but no less than once per month. The
10 committee may contract with a part-time individual to assist
11 the committee with its administrative functions.

12 C. Committee members shall not be paid but may be
13 reimbursed for per diem and mileage pursuant to the Per Diem
14 and Mileage Act.

15 D. The committee shall investigate and evaluate the
16 effectiveness and judicial efficiency of community-based
17 judicial systems in other areas and determine the feasibility
18 of creating a consolidated system in the Dona Ana county court
19 system. The committee shall report its findings and
20 recommendation to the city council, the board of county
21 commissioners and the legislature by December 1, 2005.

22 Section 2. APPROPRIATION.--Sixty thousand dollars
23 (\$60,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
24 administrative office of the courts for expenditure in fiscal
25 year 2006 for carrying out the provisions of this act. Any

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1 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
2 fiscal year 2006 shall revert to the general fund.

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